

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00346 141527Z

47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 141445Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2670

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0346

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FIVE

REF: ASMARA 0343

1. ON 13 MAY A DISREPUTED MESSENGER DELIVERED LETTERS TO CONGEN AND BURCHAELL IN MY OFFICE. OUR LETTERS WERE DATED MAY 12. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO DELIVERING LETTER TO GOV GEN. VICE MIN FOR AFFAIRS INDICATED LETTER WAS RECEIVED AND IS BEING DISCUSSED IN IEG CIRCLES.

2. THE MESSENGER IS FROM A WELL-KNOWN KEREN FAMILY. OTHER SOURCES REPORT THAT HE IS PRESENTLY FACED WITH HUGE DEBTS AND NO MEANS TO MEET THEM. HIS BROTHER DOUBTS HIS TRUSTWORTHINESS IN THIS MISSION. MURTCHAELL DOUBTS VALIDITY OF LETTERS DUE TO SHORT DELIVERY TIME RELATIVE TO OTHER LETTERS THROUGH OTHER MESSENGERS THAT HAVE TAKEN UP TO FIVE DAYS.

3. TEXT OF MESSAGE DELIVERED TO CONGEN FOLLOWS :

QUOTE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT - ERITREAN LIBERATION ARMY. TO U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL ASMARA. ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT WANTS TO INFORM THE CONSULATE GENERAL THE FOLLOWING POINTS : - (1) ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DUE TO ITS CONDITIONAL REASONS CHANGES THE FIRST MESSENGER WHOM HE WAS FIRST CONTACT US THROUGH THE  
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CONSUL GENERAL. IN HIS PLACE THE ERITREAN LIBERATION

FRONT BRINGS THE MAN WHO COME WITH THE LETTERS DATED  
4-5-74 TO TENNECO COMPANY IN THE HANDS OF MR. BURTCHEL  
THE COMPANY GENERAL MANAGER. (NOTE : THE E.L.F.  
SENTS A LETTERS TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT INDICATING  
DEMANDING SEVEN POINTS HOW TO CONTACT US. THEREFORE TRY  
TO KNOW GOVERNMENT STEPS TAKING CARE SPENT THESE MEN.)

(2) LETTERS WROTE BY ERITREAN LIBERATION WANTS THEM TO BE  
KEPT SECRET EXCEPT THOSE WHOM WE SHOW YOU TO BE DISTRIBUTE  
PUBLICLY. BASING ON THAT MR. BURCHTEL IS IN THE POSITION TO  
TAKE CARE ABOUT THIS CASE WE INFORM EACH AND EVERYTHING TO  
HIM. FROM THE INFORMATION WE DO HAVE AT FROM THE FIVE  
TENNECO PERSONNEL PRISONERS, MR. BURTCHEL HAVE AN  
ETHIOPIAN COLONEL OF THE ARMY WITH HIM THEY SAID AND CONTINUING  
THEIR SPEECH THEY SAID WE THINK THAT HE MAY SHOW HIM EVERY  
LETTER TO HIM WHOM YOU WROTE TO OUR COMPANY. THEREFORE  
WE HESITATE AND AFRAID NOT TO BE KNOWN OUR SECRETS BY  
ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS. SO HE SHOULD HAVE TO BE ATTENTION  
NOT TO LOOSE ANY SECRET. IF MR. BURCHTEL WAS DOING SUCH  
THINGS TELL HIM TO STOP IT AUTOMATICALLY. IN CASE IF E.L.F.  
HEARS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WORK IS CONTINUING WE ARE  
GOING TO CUT THE RELATION BETWEEN TENNECO AND E.L.F. AS  
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. AND NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE PERMITTED.  
DATE 12.5.1974, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT.  
UNQUOTE.  
PERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
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